

**MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL WEBINAR WORKSHOP
February 23, 2021 (5:30 p.m. Executive Session; 7:00 p.m. Open Meeting)**

In attendance were Mayor Steve Maneri, Deputy Mayor Ronald Belinko, Treasurer Sharon Brienza, Secretary Barbara Ryer, Council Member Peter Michel, Town Solicitor Seth Thompson (via Webinar), Town Manager Debbie Botchie, Town Clerk Matt Amerling, and P&Z Commissioner/Charter Review Committee Member Tim Roe.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Maneri called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

All Council members were present.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Secretary Barbara Ryer motioned to go into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. Treasurer Sharon Brienza seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

- 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Discussion of personnel matters in which the names, competency, qualifications and abilities of individual employees will be discussed.

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE OPEN MEETING.

Deputy Mayor Ron Belinko motioned to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the open meeting at 6:43 p.m. Council Member Peter Michel seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Discussion, Consideration, and Possible vote on Executive Session matters.

Mr. Belinko motioned to approve the items as discussed during Executive Session. Ms. Ryer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

- B.** Discussion, Consideration, and Possible vote on Town Charter amendments. – Secretary Barbara Ryer & Charter Review Committee. Synopsis: The Town Charter Review Committee has been meeting once a month since September 2020, to review the entire Town Charter and make appropriate amendment suggestions for Council review.

Ms. Ryer stated her thanks to all the Charter Review Committee members and thinks they did a wonderful job. Ms. Ryer stated the Committee had its last meeting on February 18, 2021, with Town Solicitor Seth Thompson joining the meeting. Ms. Ryer stated they reviewed a lot of changes and discussed each section in great detail, so the document is completed and legally

sufficient. Ms. Ryer stated there will be a public hearing on the Charter document changes so this is time for Council to review and make any suggestions. Ms. Ryer stated that Ms. Brienza found a slight change she wanted Mr. Thompson to review. Ms. Ryer asked Mr. Thompson if he would like to add any comments. Mr. Thompson asked if Council would like to review section by section, or submit random questions. Mayor Maneri asked Council if everyone has read the revised Charter document. Council stated yes, and agreed to ask questions to Mr. Thompson as the Council reviews the document.

Ms. Brienza stated on page eleven (11), at the top, in item B, the second sentence states about the Town Council electing a Mayor, but asked if the word “elected” should rather be “selected” since Council nominates and appoints a Mayor. Mr. Thompson stated this is not a general election in which the entire Town population votes specifically for the Mayor, but the Mayor is elected from the ranks of the Council members as phrased in section eight (8)-B. Ms. Brienza agreed. Council expressed their satisfaction with amendments made to the Town Charter.

Ms. Ryer stated after the Public Hearing and the resolution is passed, Ms. Botchie has the House Bill template ready to go. Ms. Botchie stated the resolution is complete. Ms. Brienza asked how long the process will take once the House Bill is submitted. Mr. Thompson stated it depends on which chamber where it starts, but basically it has to be passed in each chamber. Mr. Thompson stated if it starts in the House of Representatives, it has to be introduced by the sponsor, Representative Ronald Gray, and assigned to a committee. Mr. Thompson stated the committee hearing is where the detailed vetting of the bill is performed. Mr. Thompson stated once it passes the House – if there are no major amendments – it will go to the Senate, and the process is largely the same. Mr. Thompson further stated assuming it passes the Senate, the document will go to the Governor’s desk to be signed, where the Governor has ten (10) days to veto it or it becomes law. Ms. Brienza asked if it will be a few months. Mr. Thompson stated it depends on the timing of when the Bill is introduced, and it could be a week for each chamber. Ms. Ryer stated all the track changes in this document will be presented so the representatives and senate can see what was amended.

Ms. Brienza motioned to move forward with this draft charter changes for presentation at the public hearing on March 9, 2021. Mr. Belinko seconded the motion. Mr. Belinko voted yes. Ms. Ryer voted yes. Mr. Michel voted yes. Ms. Brienza voted yes. Mayor Maneri voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Charter Review Committee Member Tim Roe asked if the draft charter amendments are available online for the public to view. Town Clerk Matt Amerling stated yes, it has been up since yesterday (February 22, 2021) on the Town website – under the February 23, 2021 Council Workshop agenda packet dropdown – and will continue to be on the website up to and on the night of the March 9 meeting. Mr. Roe asked if the public hearing was advertised. Mr. Amerling stated yes, the public hearing notice will be in this Friday’s (February 26, 2021) *Coastal Point* newspaper.

6. CITIZENS’ PRIVILEGE

Mayor Maneri stated he would like to distribute two (2) gifts of appreciation – one to Mr. Amerling and the other to Mr. Michel. Mayor Maneri stated this is Mr. Amerling’s last meeting

as his last day with the Town is Friday (February 26), and Mr. Michel will not be retaining his Council seat. Ms. Brienza stated her thanks to Mr. Michel for his service and support on Council, and to Mr. Amerling for all of his hard work. Mayor Maneri thanked Mr. Amerling for all his great work and wished him luck. Ms. Ryer stated they will both be missed, and it was a privilege and pleasure to work with them. Mr. Belinko stated his appreciation to both. Mr. Amerling stated his thanks to everyone for the gift.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING – TOWN COUNCIL WEBINAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Brienza motioned to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Ms. Ryer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Amerling, Town Clerk